



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
LANSING




JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL P. FLANAGAN
SUPERINTENDENT OF
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

April 28, 2008

MEMORANDUM

TO: State Board of Education

FROM: Michael P. Flanagan, Chairman 

SUBJECT: Report on the Berrien County Intermediate School District and the Copper Country Intermediate School District Plans for the Delivery of Special Education Programs and Services

Pursuant to Section 380.1711 of the School Code of 1976, each intermediate school district must develop, establish, continually evaluate, and modify its Plan for the Delivery of Special Education Programs and Services (Plan). Approval indicates that intermediate school districts' and local constituent districts' special education programs and services described in the Plan meet standards which are consistent with federal and state requirements. Approval also allows intermediate school districts to receive reimbursement pursuant to the State School Aid Act.

Staff has reviewed, and I have granted approval of the Berrien County Intermediate School District and the Copper Country Intermediate School District Plans. See Attachment A for a summary of the Berrien County Plan and Attachment B for a summary of the Copper Country Plan.

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ATTACHMENT A
Department of Education

Berrien County Intermediate School District
Summary of Special Education Plan Changes

MAR 7 2008

Office of Special Education
Program Accountability

Section A – Special Education Opportunities and Procedure

Streamlined section on surrogate parents removing language already covered in rule language.

Removed subsection “due process hearings” in that this is covered in rule language

Section E – Alternative Programs Under Rule 340.1832(e)

Added 340.1832 (Juvenile Detention) – Increased number in class from 10 to 13 to allow for programming in quickly changing juvenile detention programming.

Section J – Distribution of Funds

Clarified use of Act 18 funds. Indicates that funds will not be used to pay for educational costs of students whose resident district is outside of the ISD and who receive services within the ISD as a result of Schools of Choice.

General

Throughout the document inserted “student with disabilities” wherever “handicapped individuals” was found

Throughout the document inserted “Lighthouse Education Center” for “North Lincoln” to reflect the name change of the building.

Copper Country Intermediate School District

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MAR 11 2008

Office of Special Education
Program Accountability

2/25/2008

Following is a summary of the significant changes in the Special Education Plan to the Delivery of Special Education Programs and Services in the Copper Country Intermediate School District area:

Listing of current special education programs operated by districts This will reflect the additional cognitively impaired programs that the CCISD now operates and the discontinuation of these programs by the Hancock and Calumet school districts.

Description of a new position of "Teacher Specialist for the Visually Impaired" This allows us to hire someone who has certification or temporary certification as a Teacher of the Visually Impaired to function in the role of a teacher consultant. This means that they can travel to the district and work with students and teachers instead of requiring that we have a classroom program that these students would travel to. This wouldn't work here because we have so few students, their ages are so varied and they are typically fully involved in their local district programs.

Added language to allow programs for students with severe and moderate cognitive impairments to have expanded age ranges because of the relatively low number of students who have severe and moderate cognitive impairment in our rural area.

Adjusting the number of days in our new program for students with severe cognitive impairments (210 days) to be in alignment with our other programs for students with severe disabilities.

A description of how available millage funds are distributed to local districts in order to provide an equitable distribution system across all districts.

Because these plan modifications are substantive, prior to submitting this plan we obtained input from the Parent Advisory Committee and the signatures of the Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) chairperson, the local district superintendents and the ISD superintendent. In preparation for submission of the plan, the proposed plan modifications were presented at both the Elementary and Secondary Principal Roundtables and the Superintendents' Roundtable. We are requesting your review and approval of the final draft of the modified special education plan.